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REMARKS

Claims 13 through 18 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment adds new claims 19 through 23. Thus, claims 13 through 23 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

Applicants submitted an IDS (e.g., PTO-1449) in the instant application on August 29, 2005. However, a copy of the form, as considered by the Examiner, was not provided with the Advisory Action. Applicants respectfully request that a copy of the submitted list, as reviewed and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the Applicants with the next communication.

Claims 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Chaudhari. Claims 14, 15, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chaudhari.

The Advisory Action acknowledges the differences in the shape of the mask of the present application and the mask disclosed by Chaudhari.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to clarify this difference. Specifically, independent claim 13 now recites a mask that is "curved" in a plane perpendicular to the substrate.

Chaudhari discloses, in Figures 3 and 4, a mask that is parallel to the substrate. However, the parallel mask of Chaudhari simply does not disclose or suggest the mask curved in a plane perpendicular to the substrate as required by claim 13.

Accordingly, independent claim 13, as well as claims 14 through 18 that depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claims 19 through 23 have been added to point out various aspects of the present application. Support for new claims 19 through 23 can be found at least at

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page 3, lines 8-12, as well as original figures 10(a) and 10(b).

Claims 19 through 23 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For example, independent claim 19 requires a mask that has an edge that is warped in a plane perpendicular to the substrate. Again, the mask of Chaudhari is parallel to the substrate. Clearly, the parallel mask of Chaudhari is not warped as recited by claim 19. Accordingly, independent claim 19, as well as claims 20 and 21 that depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, claim 20 requires "means for exerting an external force on said edge, said external force being sufficient to warp said edge". Chaudhari does not disclose or suggest the force exerting means or the external force sufficient to warp the edge required by claim 20.

Independent claim 22 requires that a distance between the edge of the mask and the substrate differ along at least a portion of the edge. Since the mask of Chaudhari is parallel to the substrate, the distance between the edges of Chaudhari's and the substrate is constant. Accordingly, independent claim 22, as well as claim 23 that depends therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

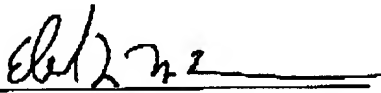
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

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If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Edward L. McMahon
Reg. No. 44,927
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401